

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/750,798

Examiner

Mohammed Hasan

Applicant(s)

MIHARA ET AL.

Art Unit

2873

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 4/28/2005.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1 - 34.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 1/5/2005 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

DETAILED ACTION

Allowable Subject Matter

1. Claims 1- 34 are allowed.
2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The prior art taken either singularly or in a combination fails to anticipate or fairly suggest the limitations of the independent claims, in such a manner that rejection under 35 U.S.C. 102 or 103 would be proper. The prior art fails to teach a combination of all the claimed features as presented in independent claims 1, 14 -19, 30, 31, and 34, for example, which include, a zoom lens having a three lens unit having (+, -, +) and a lens unit located at a most object – side position, a moving lens unit with positive refractive power located on an image side and the moving lens unit moved toward the object side when a magnification of the zoom lens changed from wide angle to telephoto end and the satisfy the following condition: $0.8 < y_{07} / (f_w \cdot \tan \omega_{07w}) < 0.96$, where f_w is a focal length of an entire system of the zoom lens at the wide-angle position, y_{07} is an image height expressed by $0.7 \times y_{10}$, where y_{10} is a distance from a center to a point farthest therefrom on an effective imaging surface of an electronic image sensor, and ω_{07w} is an angle made by a direction of an object point with an optical axis, where the object point corresponds to an image point that is at the point y_{07} away from the center on the effective imaging surface of the electronic image sensor at the wide angle position

Art Unit: 2873

(claims 1 and 14); and the first lens unit has a reflecting optical element having a reflecting surface for bending an optical path, the first lens unit and the second lens unit has two aspherical surfaces (claims 15, 17, 19, and 30); and the first lens unit and the second lens unit have four aspherical surfaces (claims 16 and 18); and the first lens unit has a reflecting surface and a magnification of the zoom lens changed from a wide-angle to a telephoto position, the second lens unit is moved and the third lens unit moved toward an object side and to satisfy the following conditions: $-1.0 \leq \beta_2 W \leq -0.40$, $-1.0 \leq \beta_3 W \leq -0.40$ where $\beta_2 W$ is the magnification of the second lens unit at the wide-angle position and $\beta_3 W$ is the magnification of the third lens unit at the wide-angle position (claims 31, and 34) (note: claims 1, 14, 16, 17, 31 and 34, are allowed previous office action).

3. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion


4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Mohammed Hasan whose telephone number is (571) 272-2331. The examiner can normally be reached on M-TH, 7:00 AM to 5:30 PM.

Art Unit: 2873

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Georgia Epps can be reached on (571) 272- 2328. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

MH
June 16, 2005


Georgia Epps
Supervisory Patent Examiner
Technology Center 2800